

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DU PÉTROLE

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PARA-XYLENE, COMPRISING ONE ADSORPTION
STEP AND TWO ISOMERIZATION STEPS

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A B S T R A C T

A process for producing para-xylene from a hydrocarbon feed is described in which an adsorption column operating as a simulated moving bed with at least five zones delivers an extract, a 2-raffinate and an intermediate raffinate.

The extract is distilled and the distillate is optionally re-crystallized to recover para-xylene with a purity of at least 99.7%. The 2-raffinate is distilled then isomerized in a reactor preferably operating in the liquid phase and at a low temperature. The intermediate raffinate with an enriched ethylbenzene content is distilled then isomerized in the vapour phase.

Figure 1 to be published.